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Industrial Disputes, Australia

This publication contains the quarterly estimates of employees involved and working days lost from industrial disputes

Reference period September 2019

Released 5/12/2019

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Main features

September key statistics

The Industrial Disputes release provides statistics monitoring the level of industrial disputation in Australia.

Quarterly estimates

- 43 disputes occurred, one less from the previous quarter.
- 17,500 employees were involved, a decrease from 20,200 in the previous quarter.
- 17,800 working days were lost, a slight increase from 17,600 in the previous quarter.
- More than three in ten (38%) working days lost were in the Education and training; Health care and social assistance industry.
- More than three in ten (35%) working days lost were in South Australia.

Year ended estimates

- 163 disputes occurred, 9 less than in the previous year.

- 82,900 working days were lost, 26% less than the previous year.

	Quarter		Year ended	
	June 2019	September 2019	September 2018	September 2019
Number of disputes				
Commenced in period (no.)	34	35	151	154
Total (no.)	44	43	172	163
Employees involved				
Newly involved ('000)	18.8	16.8	46.5	69.0
Total ('000)	20.2	17.5	48.9	72.2
Working days lost ('000)	17.6	17.8	111.6	82.9

Working days lost, Australia



Tables

1 Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter

	Number of disputes		Employees involved		
	Commenced in period	Total	Newly involved	Total	Working days lost
	no.	no.	'000	'000	'000
September Quarter 2017	40	57	6.3	8.1	45.9
December Quarter 2017	46	67	14.7	17.1	36.7
March Quarter 2018	19	24	3.8	4.0	14.9
June Quarter 2018	42	48	14.4	14.6	12.5
September Quarter 2018	44	51	13.6	13.8	47.4
December Quarter 2018	53	62	25.6	28.8	30.9
March Quarter 2019	32	44	7.8	9.3	16.6
June Quarter 2019	34	44	18.8	20.2	17.6
September Quarter 2019	35	43	16.8	17.5	17.8

2 Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, industry

	June Quarter 2019		September Quarter 2019	
	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	'000	no.	'000	no.
Mining				
Coal mining	-	-	np	np
Other mining	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing				
Metal product etc(a)	np	np	0.2	0.5
Other manufacturing	np	np	2.4	4.7
Construction	9.9	10.5	1.8	1.9
Transport, postal and warehousing	1.3	2.4	3.3	5.7
Education and training; Health care and social assistance	1.1	0.4	6.7	2.5
Other industries(a)	3.7	0.6	np	np
All industries	17.6	1.5	17.8	1.5

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

a. See Glossary - Industry - for details of industries included.

3 Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, states and territories

	June Quarter 2019		September Quarter 2019	
	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees	Working days lost	Working days lost per thousand employees
	'000	no.	'000	no.
New South Wales	3.4	0.9	5.5	1.5
Victoria	7.8	2.5	3.2	1.0
Queensland	5.2	2.3	2.8	1.2
South Australia	np	np	6.2	8.3
Western Australia	np	np	np	np
Tasmania	1.0	4.4	np	np
Northern Territory	np	np	-	-
Australian Capital Territory	np	np	-	-
Australia	17.6	1.5	17.8	1.5

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

4 Industrial disputes which ended during the quarter

		March Quarter 2019			June Quarter 2019		
		Total Number of Disputes	Total Employees Involved	Working days Lost	Total Number of Disputes	Total Employees Involved	Working days Lost
		no.	'000	'000	no.	'000	'000
CAUSE OF DISPUTE							
Enterprise Bargaining (EB) related							
Remuneration	7	1.1	4.5	10	3.9	2.8	
Employment conditions (EB)	16	2.2	6.2	14	3.4	8.3	
Other EB related	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Non-EB related							
Remuneration	1	np	np	-	-	-	
Employment conditions	-	-	-	1	np	np	
Health and safety	9	4.3	6.3	5	np	np	
Job security	-	-	-	1	0.1	-	
Managerial policy	-	-	-	1	np	np	
Union issues	1	np	np	-	-	-	
Other Non EB related	-	-	-	4	11.4	7.3	
Total	34	7.6	17.0	36	20.2	19.7	
WORKING DAYS LOST PER EMPLOYEE INVOLVED							
Up to and including 1 day	14	4.9	3.4	19	17.7	11.4	
Over 1 day and up to including 2 days	6	0.9	1.7	10	1.7	2.4	
Over 2 and less than 5 days	7	0.9	2.7	6	0.8	3.1	
5 and less than 10 days	4	0.7	5.2	-	-	-	
10 days and over	3	0.2	4.0	1	0.1	2.9	
Total	34	7.6	17.0	36	20.2	19.7	
REASON WORK RESUMED							
Negotiation without intervention of a third party	4	np	np	2	0.3	1.1	
State legislation	-	-	-	1	0.1	0.1	
Federal legislation	2	0.4	3.3	-	-	-	
Pre-determined return to work	22	3.1	8.9	29	19.1	15.0	
Resumption without negotiation	5	0.5	0.4	3	0.7	0.6	
Mediation	1	np	np	1	0.1	2.9	
Other reasons	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total	34	7.6	17.0	36	20.2	19.7	

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

Inquiries

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Data downloads

Table 1: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period

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[67 KB]

Table 2a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, industry

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[79 KB]

Table 2b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, industry

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[76 KB]

Table 3a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, states and territories

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[123 KB]

Table 3b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, states and territories

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[112.5 KB]

Table 4a: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, cause of dispute

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[292.5 KB]

Table 4b: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, working days lost per employee involved

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[122 KB]

Table 4c: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, reason work resumed

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[220.5 KB]

Methodology

[Industrial Disputes, Australia methodology, September 2019](#)